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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059719

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/30/2018

TAGS: [UNGA](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#)

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTION OF THE PGA ON JUNE 4.

Classified By: Acting IO A/S James Warlick for reason 1.4(b).

¶1. (C) Action Requests: (1) The Department instructs USUN to acclamate in the election of former Nicaraguan FM D'Escoto as the President of the 63rd UN General Assembly. (2) Department requests that USUN speak with current UNGA President Kerim and with the WEOG representative (Spain) in advance of the election to ask that they highlight in their statements the importance of the PGA maintaining an impartial stance, avoiding divisiveness, and fairly representing the views of all UNGA members in order to achieve consensus on global issues affecting all member states. End Action Request.

¶2. (C) Background: The Department understands that on June 4 the UN General Assembly will elect by acclamation Miguel D'Escoto Brockman as President of the General Assembly (PGA) for the 63rd Session of the UNGA beginning on September 16. Statements by D'Escoto, the UN Secretary General, outgoing PGA Kerim, and representatives of the regional groups will follow the election. Since D'Escoto's nomination, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has

stressed that he will avoid controversy. We have received reports, however, that in private D'Escoto continues to rail against the U.S. and seeks to free the UN of "imperialist U.S. influence."

¶3. (U) Begin contingency guidance for U.S. statement:

-- Given the important role the UN General Assembly plays on issues of concern to all UN Member States, from food security to human rights to non-proliferation and disarmament issues, it is vital that the UNGA President demonstrate impartial leadership in working to achieve consensus on issues of concern to all UN Member States.

-- We still hope that as President of the UN General Assembly he will represent the views of all UN members states without bias.

-- (If asked about why the U.S. did not vote against D' Escoto's selection: By tradition, the UNGA elects by acclamation the consensus choice of the regional group nominating the President of the UNGA. We respect this tradition.)

End points.  
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